

## **RETRACTABLE SHOWERHEAD**

### **Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This is a continuation of and claims priority from provisional application serial number 60/455,764, filed March 19, 2003.

### **Field of the Invention**

The invention herein pertains to the residential plumbing art. More specifically the invention relates to a showerhead.

### **Background of the Invention**

In a shower it is desirable to have a showerhead that can be moved about in order to direct the water coming out of the showerhead to different areas. In order to accomplish this it is customary to have a head part removably supported by a bracket on a wall with a length of flexible hose or tubing extending between the head part and the water source. This arrangement can be cumbersome because of the exposed length of tubing hanging down within the shower stall.

### **Summary of the Invention**

The invention disclosed herein includes a detachable weighted head part mountable on a wall bracket. A length of weighted flexible hose connects the head part with a water source. The length of hose is located behind the shower stall wall and extends through the wall to the head part. When the head part is removed from its wall bracket for use, the hose is pulled from the exterior of the wall. When the head part is replaced, the hose retracts back into the wall.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a retractable showerhead which is of economical construction and ease of operation.

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

This and other objects of the invention will be more apparent from the description below and the drawings in which:

- 5        FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of the retractable showerhead;
- FIG. 2 is a sectional side view of the retractable showerhead as seen in Fig. 1;
- FIG. 3 is a rear view of the retractable showerhead;
- FIG. 4 shows an alternate embodiment of a retractable showerhead;
- FIG. 5 is a rear view of the retractable showerhead of FIG. 4; and,
- 10       FIG. 6 is a detail of the retraction device used in the retractable showerhead of FIG. 4.

### **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments**

Figures 1-3 depict a retractable showerhead 10 shown extending through a wall 12. A guide tube 16 passes through wall 12. Escutcheons 18 extend about tube 16 on apposite sides of wall 12. A corner piece 20 is attached on the end of tube 16 at the exterior side of the wall 12 and a mounting bracket 21 is attached on the end of the tube at the interior side of the wall. Flexible hose 22 is connected at one end to drop ear 19 which in turn is connected by a riser 23 to a water source which includes a supply valve 26 and piping 28. Flexible hose 22 is slidably fitted through tube 16 and corner piece 20 and is connected to head part 11 of showerhead 10.

20    Hose 22 is preferably formed of stainless steel flex hose.

A weight 24 is slidably carried by flexible hose 22 at the bottom of the loop 25 formed by the hose between drop ear 19 and tube 16 in a position that allows a defined length of hose 22 to be drawn through tube 16. Flexible hose 22 fits freely within tube 16 and corner piece 20 such

that when head part 11 is removed from bracket 21, the tube may be pulled through wall 12 with the head part being in a use position. Weight 24 is heavy enough such that when head part 11 is replaced in a stored position into bracket 21, the weight which remains at the lowest point of loop 25 of hose 22 due to its slip fit upon the hose will cause the hose to retract through tube 16 and corner piece 19 into the wall 12. Bracket 21 includes a slot 27 which serves as a guide for hose 22 as it is extended and retracted.

Figures 4-6 depict an alternative embodiment of the retractable showerhead 10, which includes a coiler 30 on the exterior of wall 12. In this alternative, flexible hose 22 is run through tube 16 and corner piece 20 in wall 12 and is wound around a reel 25 within coiler 30. Coiler 30 includes a bracket 32 for mounting the coiler to wall 12 or a backing mount 34. A liquid tight rotatable coupler is connected between piping 28 which is connected to water supply valve 26 and the end of hose 22 at reel 25. Coiler 30 includes an internal helical spring 34 which is tightened when the hose is pulled from the wall and the reel 36 caused to be rotated as head part 11 is pulled away from wall 12 into its use position. As head part 11 is replaced in bracket 21, spring 34 causes reel 36 to reverse rotate to recoil hose 22 about the reel and into coiler 30.

The above description is to enable a person skilled in the art to make and use the invention described, and does not include all obvious variations or uses for the invention, all of which are expressly included herein.